

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of the claims:

Claims 1, 10, 15, 17 and 18 are amended. Claims 24 and 25 are cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, to the prosecution of the other claims in the application. Applicant reserves the right to seek patent protection for the subject matter of the cancelled claims 24 and 25 in a further application.

Communication between the undersigned and the Examiner:

The Examiner in the current application contacted the undersigned via telephone on April 19, 2007. During that conversation the Examiner suggested that the Applicants make the following changes to the claims of the pending application.

- 1) Cancel claims 24 and 25.

In response to the above communication the applicants have cancelled claims 24 and 25 without prejudice or disclaimer and thus, the rejection with respect to those claims is moot.

- 2) In each of independent claims 1, 10 and 15 the Examiner proposed to change the term "stop" to "stop projection."

In response, the undersigned suggested using "stop surface" instead of the phrase "stop projection" proposed by the examiner, to replace the term "stop" in each of claims 1, 10 and 15. In reply the Examiner expressed that he needed to consult with his supervisor. Next, the Examiner left a voice message informing the undersigned that his supervisor was not comfortable with the proposal to use "stop surface".

Also in response, amended claims 1, 10, 15 with the feature of "stop surface". Applicant believes that the amendment from "stop" to "stop surface" would be sufficient. Applicant also believes that claims as amended are compliant with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

3. For claim 17, the Examiner proposed to reword the feature of the claim, as follows: "wherein the at least one stop projection extends away from a surface of the connector portion."

In response claim 17 is amended to recite the feature "wherein the at least one stop surface extends away from a surface of the connector portion" and addresses the Examiner's concerns. Since claim 18 depends from claim 17, it was amended to recite, among other features, "one stop surface" as well.

**Conclusion:**

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-23, 26-28, 31-40 are now pending in this application.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37

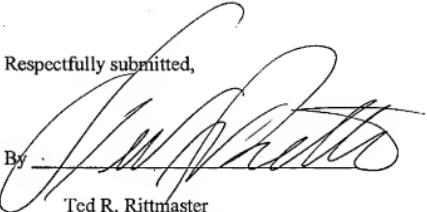
C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

May 25, 2007

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